Marian Schneider

smarian@ethz.ch | Website | LinkedIn | GitHub | Google Scholar

Education

ETH Zurich — Zurich, Switzerland
Master of Science in Computer Science — *Sep. 2024 – Present*

- Current GPA: 5.68 (Swiss scale; 6.0 best, 4.0 passing)
- Focusing on Machine Intelligence (major) and Computer Graphics (minor).

RWTH Aachen University — Aachen, Germany
Bachelor of Science in Computer Science — *Oct. 2021 – Aug. 2024*

- GPA: 1.1 (German scale; 1.0 best, 4.0 passing), Graduated with distinction
- Focused on Machine Learning and Visual Computing.
- Maintained top 5% ranking throughout the entire degree, earning Dean's List honors in all academic years.
- Thesis: Autoregressive Mesh Generation via Inverse Decimation

Experience

AI Engineer Intern | *QuantCo* — Sep. 2026 – Dec. 2026
Python, PostgreSQL — *Zurich, Switzerland*

- Designed an internal benchmark for evaluating the performance and robustness of domain-specific LLM agents.

Software Engineer Intern | *Optiver* — Jun. 2026 – Sep. 2026
Python, C++, Apache Spark, PostgreSQL, AWS — *Amsterdam, Netherlands*

- Worked in the pricing research team, building and validating datasets that power pricing model research.
- Received full-time return offer.

Research Assistant | *ETH AI Center, Prof. Andreas Krause's Lab* — Feb. 2025 – Jul. 2026
Python, PyTorch, Hugging Face, vLLM, SGLang, veRL, MegatronLM, Docker — *Zurich, Switzerland*

- Core team for "Apertus", a large-scale, open-source LLM, with over *5,000,000 total downloads* on Hugging Face, working on alignment and self-distillation. (Technical Report 1.0, Technical Report 1.5, Models)
- Researching active learning methods for synthetic preference data generation for LLM alignment, requiring 6× fewer data samples and 2× fewer annotations compared to existing methods to achieve equal or better performance.

Software Engineer Intern, Machine Learning | *Adobe Research* — Jul. 2025 – Dec. 2025
Python, JavaScript, PyTest, Flask, Node.js, CrewAI, Docker, AWS, Microsoft Azure — *Basel, Switzerland*

- Built agents (RAG, tool calling, structured output) that accelerate design A/B testing, and led their transition from research prototype to production with external clients.
- Project featured and placed 1st out of 500+ internal projects at Adobe Summit 2026.
- Received full-time return offer.

Research Assistant | *RWTH Aachen University, Prof. Leif Kobbelt's Lab* — Jun. 2022 – Aug. 2024
Python, PyTorch, PyG, PyQt6, PyTest — *Aachen, Germany*

- Researched 3D geometry generation with graph neural networks and neural radiance fields.
- Built "The Curator's Machine", an open-source exhibition design tool powered by vision models fine-tuned on a museum's collection. (GitHub, Project Page)

Publications and Patents

Apertus v1.5 Technical Report: From Open Text Models to Open Multimodal Reasoners
The Apertus Team (including **M. Schneider** as core team member) — *Preprint*, 2026

ActiveUltraFeedback: Efficient Preference Data Generation using Active Learning
D. Melikidze*, **M. Schneider***, J. Lam*, M. Wertich*, I. Hakimi, B. Pásztor, A. Krause — *ICML*, 2026

SimAB: Simulating A/B Tests with Persona-Conditioned AI Agents for Rapid Design Evaluation
T. Rieder*, **M. Schneider***, . . . , M. D. Dogan — *Preprint, Patent (pending)*, 2026

Apertus: Democratizing Open and Compliant LLMs for Global Language Environments
The Apertus Team (including **M. Schneider** as contributor) — *ACL*, 2026